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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

WHEREAS, Health insurance for educators throughout our State has become increasingly unaffordable; and

WHEREAS, Many school districts find themselves facing financial stress to provide a quality public education for our students and to offer a reasonable compensation package that attracts, retains, and rewards educational employees; and

WHEREAS, Illinois has staffing shortages in 62% of its education agencies, which include K-12 schools, special education cooperatives, and career centers, according to a report published by the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools; and

WHEREAS, The number of educator vacancies throughout Illinois exceeds 7,000 trained professionals; and

WHEREAS, Local governments continue to do more with less, and the idea of creating health insurance efficiencies should be explored; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE

1 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Educator Health Insurance
2 Task Force is created to study the feasibility of creating
3 regional health insurance purchasing pools of school districts
4 accessible to all public educators in school districts that
5 have a population of less than 500,000; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall consist of the
7 following members who will serve without compensation:

8 (1) One member of the Senate appointed by the Senate
9 President, who shall serve as Co-Chair;

10 (2) One member of the House of Representatives
11 appointed by the House Speaker, who shall serve as
12 Co-Chair;

13 (3) One member of the Senate appointed by the Senate
14 Minority Leader;

15 (4) One member of the House of Representatives
16 appointed by the House Minority Leader;

17 (5) One person representing an association that
18 advocates on behalf of school boards appointed by the
19 Governor;

20 (6) One person representing an association that
21 advocates on behalf of school management appointed by the
22 Governor;

23 (7) Two persons each representing an association that
24 advocates on behalf of certified teachers appointed by the
25 Governor;

1 (8) Two persons each representing an association that
2 advocates on behalf of educational support staff appointed
3 by the Governor; and

4 (9) The Director of the Department of Central
5 Management Services or his or her designee; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That the Illinois State Board of Education and
8 the Illinois Department of Central Management Services shall
9 provide administrative support for the Task Force along with
10 the relevant resources necessary for the Task Force to
11 complete a comprehensive report to the General Assembly; and
12 be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall conduct a minimum of
14 two public hearings in at least two different counties within
15 the State at the call of the co-chairs; and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall convene a wide array
17 of stakeholders to examine the current provision of health
18 insurance to public educators from throughout the State and to
19 explore and study the viability of a plan to create at least
20 four regional insurance purchasing pools; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall explore local
22 governance options for these pools, study the costs and

1 funding associated with this type of health insurance option,
2 consider transition plans and costs for school districts to
3 participate, consider healthcare accessibility, find ways to
4 integrate the program with efficiencies in state government,
5 and consider a variety of health insurance benefits and
6 options while studying the feasibility of regional pools; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Task Force may study a statewide
9 Educator Health Insurance Program; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall submit its final
11 report to the General Assembly no later than December 31,
12 2026, and upon the filing of its final report, the Task Force
13 is dissolved; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
15 delivered to the Senate President, the Speaker of the House,
16 the Senate Minority Leader, the House Minority Leader, the
17 Governor, and the State Superintendent of Education.